

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Serial No. : 10/808,996 Confirmation : 6784  
Applicant(s) : Katsumi KARASAWA  
Filed : March 24, 2004  
Title : OPTICAL APPARATUS

Art Unit : 2622  
Examiner : Paulos M. NATNAEL

Docket No. : 1232-5353  
Customer No. : 27123

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The Restriction Requirement dated August 11, 2006 identifies the following patentably distinct of inventions among the pending claims:

<b><u>Group</u></b>	<b><u>Claim(s)</u></b>	<b><u>Invention</u></b>
I	1-21	An image signal processing apparatus, allegedly classified in class 348, subclass 231.
II	22-26	An image-taking system, allegedly classified in class 348, subclass 207.

In response to this Restriction Requirement, this paper provisionally elect to pursue prosecution of Group I. At least claims 1-21 are believed to be encompassed by that election.

This election is made with traverse. For such a requirement to be proper, “[t]here must be a serious burden on the examiner if restriction is not required.” M.P.E.P. § 803. It is

Appl. No. 10/808,996  
Paper dated August 25, 2006  
Reply to Restriction Reqt. dated August 11, 2006

respectfully submitted that (1) all the pending claims are properly presented in the same application; (2) undue diverse searching should not be required; and (3) all claims should be examined together. For the foregoing reasons, the Restriction Requirement should be withdrawn and an action on the merits of all the claims is respectfully solicited.

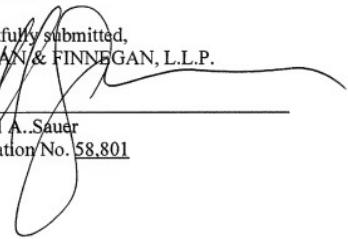
Should the Restriction Requirement be made final, the right is expressly reserved to present any withdrawn claims in divisional application(s). In the event that a telephone conference would facilitate the examination of this application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

THE COMMISSIONER IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE ANY ADDITIONAL FEES WHICH MAY BE REQUIRED FOR THE TIMELY CONSIDERATION OF THIS AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 AND 1.17, OR CREDIT ANY OVERPAYMENT TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 13-4500, ORDER NO. 1232-5353.

Dated: August 25, 2006

By:

Respectfully submitted,  
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael A. Sauer  
Registration No. 58,801

Correspondence Address:  
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.  
3 World Financial Center  
New York, NY 10281-2101  
(212) 415-8700 Telephone  
(212) 415-8701 Facsimile